



State Elections Enforcement Commission

Fact Sheet about SEEC Form 3

All information contained in the committee's most recently filed SEEC Form 3 must be up to date, including the names, mailing addresses, and email addresses of the chairperson, treasurer, as well as deputy treasurer and other officers (if applicable). **Email is our primary form of contact so please ensure all email addresses are current.**

Different types of political committees are subject to different campaign finance laws and restrictions. How you answer certain questions on the SEEC Form 3 will impact (1) your filing requirements; (2) how your political committee is able to expend its funds; and (3) whether your committee may accept lobbyist contributions during the legislative session. A treasurer should pay particularly close attention to the following questions on SEEC Form 3 as they are determinative of substantive requirements and restrictions under the law.

Question 32. Is Committee Established or Controlled by a Registered Lobbyist?

There are two types of lobbyists in Connecticut: communicator lobbyists and client lobbyists. A **Communicator Lobbyist** receives or agrees to receive \$3,000 or more in a calendar year for lobbying. A **Client Lobbyist** pays or agrees to pay a communicator lobbyist \$3,000 or more in a calendar year for lobbying. See General Statutes § 1-91 (12), (21) & (22) (as amended by P.A. 15-15).

EXAMPLE: ABC labor union pays John Doe \$4,000 in a calendar year to lobby the General Assembly. ABC would be a **client lobbyist** because it pays a communicator lobbyist to lobby \$3,000 or more. John Doe would be a **communicator lobbyist** because he is being paid \$3,000 or more to lobby on behalf of ABC.

IMPORTANT NOTE: In Public Act 15-15, the legislature increased the threshold amount in the definition of lobbyist from \$2,000 to \$3,000.

If a political committee has questions as to whether a person is a client lobbyist or a communicator lobbyist, it should contact the Office of State Ethics at 860-263-2400.

- **Year-Round \$100 Communicator Lobbyist Contribution Limit**

Political committees that answer "yes" to **Question 32** and are established or controlled by a **communicator lobbyist** are limited in giving **\$100** in a calendar year to the following types of committees:

- (1) Candidate or exploratory committees established by General Assembly or statewide candidates;
- (2) Political committees established or controlled by any such candidate;
- (3) Legislative caucus or leadership committees; and
- (4) Party committees (state central and town committees).

- **Sessional Lobbyist Contribution Ban**

During the legislative session, political committees that answer "yes" to **Question 32** and are established or controlled by or on behalf of either a **client lobbyist** or **communicator lobbyist** may **not** contribute any amount to the following types of committees:

- (1) Candidate or exploratory committees established by General Assembly or statewide candidates; or
- (2) Political committees (i) established for an assembly or senatorial district, (ii) established by a member of the General Assembly or a statewide officer or their agent, or (iii) controlled by such member, officer or agent.

EXAMPLE: If John Doe (a communicator lobbyist) has established or controls a political committee, that committee is **limited to contributing \$100** to any of the covered committees articulated above throughout the year and is **prohibited** from contributing to committees covered by the sessional lobbyist ban during the session.

Likewise, if ABC labor union (a client lobbyist) has established a political committee, that committee will also be **prohibited** from contributing to committees covered by the sessional lobbyist ban during the session. Outside of the session it may contribute up to the normal limits for that committee (unless it is also established or controlled by a communicator lobbyist in which case the above rules will apply).

Committees that answer “yes” to either of these questions may not receive contributions from lobbyists or political committees established by or on behalf of a lobbyist during the legislative session.

Question 38. Is Committee Established by or on Behalf of a State Contractor or Principal of a State Contractor?

Political committees established by a state contractor, prospective state contractor, or a principal thereof are considered principals of a state contractor under the law. Committees that answer “yes” to **Question 38** are subject to branch specific **state contractor contribution prohibitions**:

If the state contract in question is with the **executive branch**, then the committee is **prohibited** from making contributions to the following types of committees:

- (1) Candidate* or exploratory committees established by statewide candidates;
- (2) Political committees authorized to make contributions to statewide candidates; and
- (3) Party committees (state central and town committees).

Likewise, if the state contract in question is with the **legislative branch**, then the committee is **prohibited** from making contributions to the following types of committees:

- (1) Candidate* or exploratory committees established by General Assembly candidates;
- (2) Political committees authorized to make contributions to General Assembly candidates; and
- (3) Party committees (state central and town committees).

Question 39. Purpose of Committee as to Statewide and General Assembly Candidates:

- A. Is this Political Committee authorized to make contributions or expenditures to or for the benefit of candidates for Statewide Office?**
- B. Is this Political Committee authorized to make contributions or expenditures to or for the benefit of candidates for General Assembly?**

Committees that check “yes” to **Question 39A**, indicating that the committee is authorized to contribute to candidates for statewide office, may not receive contributions from **executive branch state contractors**, prospective state contractors, their principals, or political committees established or controlled by them.

Committees that check “yes” to **Question 39B**, indicating that the committee is authorized to contribute to candidates for General Assembly, may not receive contributions from **legislative branch state contractors**, prospective state contractors, their principals, or political committees established or controlled by them.

* Note that candidates for General Assembly or statewide office in the Citizens’ Election Program may not receive contributions of any kind (monetary or in-kind) from political committees.

Question 40. Is Committee Established by or on Behalf of a Principal of an Investment Services Firm?

Committees that answer “yes” to **Question 40** will be subject to the **investment services firm contribution prohibition**:

- Political committees established or controlled by a principal of an investment services firm that is paid by the State Treasurer are **prohibited** from making contributions to candidate or exploratory committees established by **candidates for State Treasurer** during the term of office of the State Treasurer who pays the firm.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please review the answers to each of these questions carefully. The SEEC Form 3 provides the public with information about how the campaign finance laws apply to your committee. ***Note, however, that even if you answer a question in the negative, you may still be subject to the prohibitions discussed here if the underlying facts support such application of the law.***

This fact sheet is intended to assist political committees. It does not provide legal advice and is not intended as a definitive interpretation of Connecticut campaign finance laws. If you have any legal compliance questions about how to properly complete the SEEC Form 3, please call 860-256-2940.